

Whitsunday Anglican School

Bright *futures*
begin here.



Whitsunday
Anglican School



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At Whitsunday Anglican School, we pride ourselves on providing opportunities in learning and in life. Our students build confidence, character and skills that go beyond school, in a safe and nurturing environment that allows them to thrive. We challenge and support our students to be the very best they can be – in the classroom and beyond. From Kindergarten-Year 12, we equip our students with the capabilities and values they need to create bright *futures*.





“ We find children learn best when they are happy, challenged and supported. Our academic results confirm that. We are Queensland’s leading regional school, with graduates who consistently secure their first university or vocational pathway of choice. ”

Welcome from the Principal

Welcome to Whitsunday Anglican School, a vibrant coeducational day and boarding school with a philosophy of personalised learning that drives an education of excellence.

From Kindergarten-Year 12, we provide high quality teaching, and the time and support needed to foster each student’s individual success.

We find children learn best when they are happy, challenged and supported. Our academic results confirm that. We are Queensland’s leading regional school and the number one performing school in the Mackay region, based on consistently high NAPLAN and ATAR results.

In our junior years, we also attain excellent results, above State and National averages for Year 3 and Year 5 NAPLAN results. However, most importantly, our Junior School delivers a balanced education that encourages a love of learning, setting the foundations for Senior School.

There are many factors involved in our success, but perhaps the most striking are the relationships between teachers, parents and our students.

Teachers at Whitsunday Anglican School are highly trained in their specialist areas. They are passionate educators and genuinely care about their students.

In addition, we are exceptionally proud of the high standards our students set for themselves. They encourage each other through positive attitudes, behaviour and application, culminating from a strong culture of learning.

Our students are guided by a values framework and are active participants in the wider community. They ‘serve’ others locally and internationally, including tours overseas (for example, to help build village facilities) and closer to home through transformational service opportunities.

We also offer many opportunities for students to develop their personal interests and passions, including in Sport, Music, Drama, Culture, Literature or STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics).



As a School, we are highly active in the local community. Each year we host key events including the Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival (the largest literature festival for young people in North and Central Queensland); and the Mackay Sony Foundation Children's Holiday Camp, an affirming event for children with special needs who are looked after for three days by our senior students, providing much needed respite for families.

Our School is diverse in backgrounds, cultures and beliefs, enriching our School community and fostering friendships, respect, empathy and inclusion.

As a parent myself, I know how important the decision on where to send your child to school is. I have no hesitation in assuring you that your child will receive the individual support, guidance and care they need to thrive at Whitsunday Anglican School.

Please allow us to introduce you to our School.

Andrew Wheaton
Principal

Academic and cocurricular excellence

We value academic rigour and a wide range of curricular and cocurricular pursuits including STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics), English and Literature, Technology and Innovation, Sport, Music, Art and Drama.

Motivation and high standards

Staff and parents alike will tell you that our students are motivated to perform, with a passion for learning. They understand the expectations of our School and they diligently deliver in learning outcomes and responsible behaviour.

Creativity, innovation and progress

Students are encouraged to 'think for the future,' confidently forging creative solutions for tomorrow's world.

Emotional Intelligence (EI)

Students are supported to learn critical emotional intelligence and interpersonal skills that are essential for future success and wellbeing. We have partnered with Melbourne's Swinburne University to be the first in our region to implement a leading Emotional Intelligence programme for students.

Global learning

Students at Whitsunday Anglican School are offered life-enriching cultural and travel experiences, thanks to our Global Learning and Cultural Exchange programmes.

Diversity

Our students are diverse in backgrounds, cultures and beliefs, reflecting the real world, enhancing our community and fostering friendships, respect, empathy and inclusion.

Anglican faith

Parents choose our School because of the strong values that are interwoven into its fabric. Our values encourage our students to 'serve' others, creating future citizens that actively contribute to community.

Leading regional school

Based in Mackay, adjacent to the beautiful Whitsunday Region of the Great Barrier Reef, we are one of Australia's leading regional schools. At Whitsunday Anglican School, we combine the best of country hospitality with the high standards of a premier city school.



SCHOOL MISSION

**Within a framework of Christian values,
we provide an engaging and supportive
learning experience that achieves the
best outcome for the individual.**



What we are passionate about:

- Academic excellence and intellectual endeavour
- Creating respectful, confident, energetic and resilient young men and women
- Outstanding teachers, highly-skilled in their teaching areas of specialty, who know our students
- A culture characterised by community – a close-knit family from Kindergarten-Year 12, and beyond
- Personal growth and wellbeing
- Global outlook, student diversity and inclusiveness
- A balanced education, typified by strong cocurricular opportunities in Sport and the Arts, and supported by service to others
- Providing a safe and supportive learning environment
- Flexible pathways that meet the needs of the emerging economy and rapidly changing global environment.

What we value:

- Respect, social responsibility, compassion, effort, tradition and cooperation
- A strong, self-motivated work ethic
- Culture and character – strong foundations for life
- Emotional Intelligence, wellbeing and social development
- Future-focused thinking and learning
- Service, humility and community contribution
- Well-balanced young men and women.

Enduring values

Values are at the heart of our mission at Whitsunday Anglican School. As a school in the Anglican tradition, our Christian values guide our students' character, inform the dedication of our teachers, and contribute to the vibrant community we nurture.

School values

In line with our values framework, we operate a code of conduct based on five key tenets:

Respect *(through Tolerance and Care)*

Characterised by openness to a broad range of ideas and concepts, accommodation of multi-cultures, faiths and inclusivity of various backgrounds, and respect and care for one's self, others, the environment, and property.

Excellence *(through Effort)*

Characterised by the pursuit of optimum outcomes for students in their academic, sporting and cultural endeavours, underpinned by our explicit strategies to assist students to develop self-belief, persistence, confidence and resilience.

Dignity *(through Tradition)*

Characterised by our expectations for a conservative approach to worship, dress, appearance, manners, language, social discourse, rituals and symbols.

Trust *(through Cooperation)*

Characterised by consideration of the needs of the group before the needs of the individual, expressed through collaboration, teamwork, honesty, accountability and consistency.

Christianity *(through Social Responsibility)*

Characterised by faith in God, forgiveness, reconciliation, developing a sense of mission/purpose through service to, and compassion and care for others.

These values are at the heart of what makes our School so inclusive, welcoming and strong in community. We believe they encapsulate progressive and traditional values that will stand the test of time.





Strong foundations

Junior School | Kindergarten-Year 6

At Whitsunday Anglican School, we offer families the opportunity to undertake the entire K-12 academic journey. We understand that the junior years of a child's education are a critical, foundational time that establishes their attitude toward learning for life.

The School has distinct precincts for Kindergarten, Junior and Senior students with age-appropriate, architecturally designed facilities, qualified specialist teachers, and an extensive and enriching curriculum. This allows our young students to thrive in their learning and enjoyment of school life. This ensures they feel secure in transitioning to each new stage of their educational journey, and can move confidently and capably into their senior years.

Kindergarten

Whitsunday Anglican School's Kindergarten recognises the value and richness of play as a catalyst for children's learning and their ongoing engagement in meaningful experiences. When children play, they approach experiences with interest, ownership, empowerment, and possibility. These experiences are enhanced by flexible, challenging and creative learning experiences and interactions.

The Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guidelines, along with the National Early Years Learning Framework, guide our practices in Kindergarten.

Literacy and numeracy are introduced through age-appropriate pedagogies. Children are introduced to technology through classroom iPads and working with 'Bee Bots', programmable robots. We support children to develop perceptual motor skills such as balance, spatial awareness, hand-eye coordination, and directionality. Writing and drawing, sensory tasks, construction (e.g. Lego), cognitive games, indoor and outdoor activities, Science, Art, craft and rest time are regular parts of a child's Kindergarten day. Our Kindergarten children are active participants in the School community and contribute to wider School and Junior School events and activities alongside older students.

Junior School

Preparatory Year

The Preparatory Year (Prep) at Whitsunday Anglican School is the first formal year of schooling, designed to assist our students through to the School's junior years. It is a curriculum-based, structured learning programme that allows plenty of space for creativity, play-based learning and imagination.



A curriculum based on the Australian Curriculum and supported by Queensland's The Early Years Curriculum provides active, stimulating and rich experiences in literacy and numeracy. The students are supported in a learning environment underpinned by our pastoral care and Emotional Intelligence programme as part of the Aristotle Emotional Intelligence (EI) Development programme, supported through an established partnership with Swinburne University in Melbourne.

As well as focusing on literacy and numeracy, our Prep programme covers Science, Humanities and Technologies. Our young students benefit from breakout classes with specialist teachers and facilities. This includes Art, Music, and Physical Education.

An Anglican ethos, through Christian Education lessons and Chapel, and a values-based education are also key elements of our Prep year as children begin to develop their character and continue to grow as respectful and responsible citizens.





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Years 1-6

Our Junior School, Years 1-6, provides a warm and exciting setting for learning in a stimulating and challenging environment.

Unique to our School in the Mackay region, students from Prep learn from specialist teachers in Art, Music, Languages (Years 4-6) and Physical Education. Gaining exposure to music and instrumental at a young age delivers numerous developmental benefits, with research showing that these skills enhance understanding of literacy and produce students who are more self-confident, creative, organised and better able to express their ideas.

Developing firm literacy and numeracy abilities are a core focus across the Junior School, as is Science, Geography, History, Health and Physical Education, Sport, and Technologies.

From Year 3, students use laptops in their studies as part of our BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) programme.

Whitsunday Anglican School supports an inclusive Anglican ethos. The Christian base of the School, which sees all treated fairly and compassionately, and all other faiths readily accepted, is a major consideration in all that happens at the Junior School. It is that ethos that makes the School what it is.

The aims of the Christian Education programme are to encourage an understanding and acceptance of the spiritual and moral basis of life, to develop an awareness of values and an ability to make value judgements based on both evidence and belief. During Christian Education lessons, students are exposed to a wide range of issues in a religious and values context.

Students in the Junior School also partake in pastoral programmes that support their emotional intelligence and emotional resilience. The Aristotle Emotional Intelligence (EI) Development programme and the 'Dare to Care' programme are explicitly taught across the Junior School to support student development.

A number of cocurricular sports are on offer to students in the Junior School including Basketball, Football, Netball, Tennis, Touch and many club-based and representative School sports.

We understand the foundational years of primary schooling are imperative for young students starting on their educational journey.

We are therefore very proud of the fact that at Whitsunday Anglican School, alongside exceptional classroom teachers, our Junior School students are further supported by our (Acting) Dean of Studies (Preparatory-Year 6), Dean of Curriculum and Pedagogy (K-3) and Dean of Pastoral Care and Events.

Other distinguishing aspects of our Junior School are:

- **Emotional Intelligence (EI) programme** - as part of the Aristotle Emotional Intelligence (EI) Development programme, and supported through an established partnership with Swinburne University in Melbourne. Students across the Junior School are involved in the programme that includes the development of foundations and building blocks leading towards pro-social behaviours
- **Service Activities** - developing students' ability to care for others, and supporting them to donate time and effort, or raise funds, for worthy causes
- **Multicultural Awareness** - Global Learning Day
- **Academic Extensions** - through Chess and Science Clubs, Brainiacs and Opti-Minds
- **Music** - students from the Preparatory Year learn music with a specialist teacher. In addition to our Kodaly-based classroom music programme, students in Years 2-3 learn a stringed instrument (violin or cello) as part of their music studies; and students in Years 4-5 can experience learning a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument (flute, clarinet, saxophone, French horn, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba, percussion).
- **Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival** - giving young readers and writers access to renowned Australian and International authors and illustrators
- **Leadership Opportunities** - from Year 4, numerous avenues are available for students to pursue, including representing the School at community events or taking Junior School leadership roles
- **Boarding** - from Year 6 we welcome boarders to our School, enhancing the overall dynamic
- **Homework and Tutorial Scheme (HATS)** - through a variety of formats that support our students from Year 2 in after school sessions
- **Outdoor Education Programme** - which occurs at the end of Term 3, sees students from Kindergarten-Year 11 participate in Outdoor Education Week, providing more extensive and challenging outdoor experiences as they grow older.



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A first for the Mackay and Whitsunday region, the world-class STEAM Centre will be accessed by students from K-12, placing them at the forefront of innovative education.





Creating bright futures

Senior School | Years 7-12

The senior years at Whitsunday Anglican School are a time of **great focus and investment by our School community**, as we help students to **perform to the very best of their abilities, uncover their true interests and passions, and learn to live a balanced and inspired life.**



At Whitsunday Anglican School, we are proud that our graduates are given the tools to follow their dreams. Our graduates step into the university degree or vocational pathway of their choice. Our students consistently perform above the statewide average in university entry scores.

Equally, we recognise that university isn't for everyone. We offer Vocational Educational Training (VET) pathways and have an active work experience programme for Years 9-12 that is well supported by local organisations and industry.

Alongside our exceptional teaching staff, our Senior School is supported by a dedicated management and leadership team:

- Deputy Principal (Teaching and Learning)
- Deputy Principal (Pastoral and Head of Senior School)
- Dean of Studies (Senior School)
- Dean of Students (Senior School)
- Heads of House (Years 9-12)
- Years 9-12 House Tutors and Years 7-8 Tutors
- Dean of Service and Global Learning
- School Psychologist
- School Nurse
- School Chaplain

At Whitsunday Anglican School, we believe every senior student can be supported to achieve to the best of their ability. Our teaching professionals actively work with students to build academic confidence and personal bests.

We aim to produce well-balanced individuals and accomplished, confident, and determined young men and women equipped to lead and contribute to their community as future citizens, following the path they are passionate about.

Outstanding teachers

Our teaching staff are specialised, highly qualified and highly motivated, inspired professionals who are experts at igniting motivation and getting the best from their students. Our staff go above and beyond to support students to perform to the best of their abilities during their senior years. They have numerous post-graduate qualifications, outstanding dedication, and are actively involved in the wider local community.

Broad curriculum and academic extension

Students at Whitsunday are offered an extensive range of curriculum options including English and Literature, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics), Humanities (History, Geography), Christian Education, Business (including Accounting, Economics and Legal Studies), Design, Health and Physical Education, Science, Languages (French, Chinese and Japanese), Music, Art and Drama.

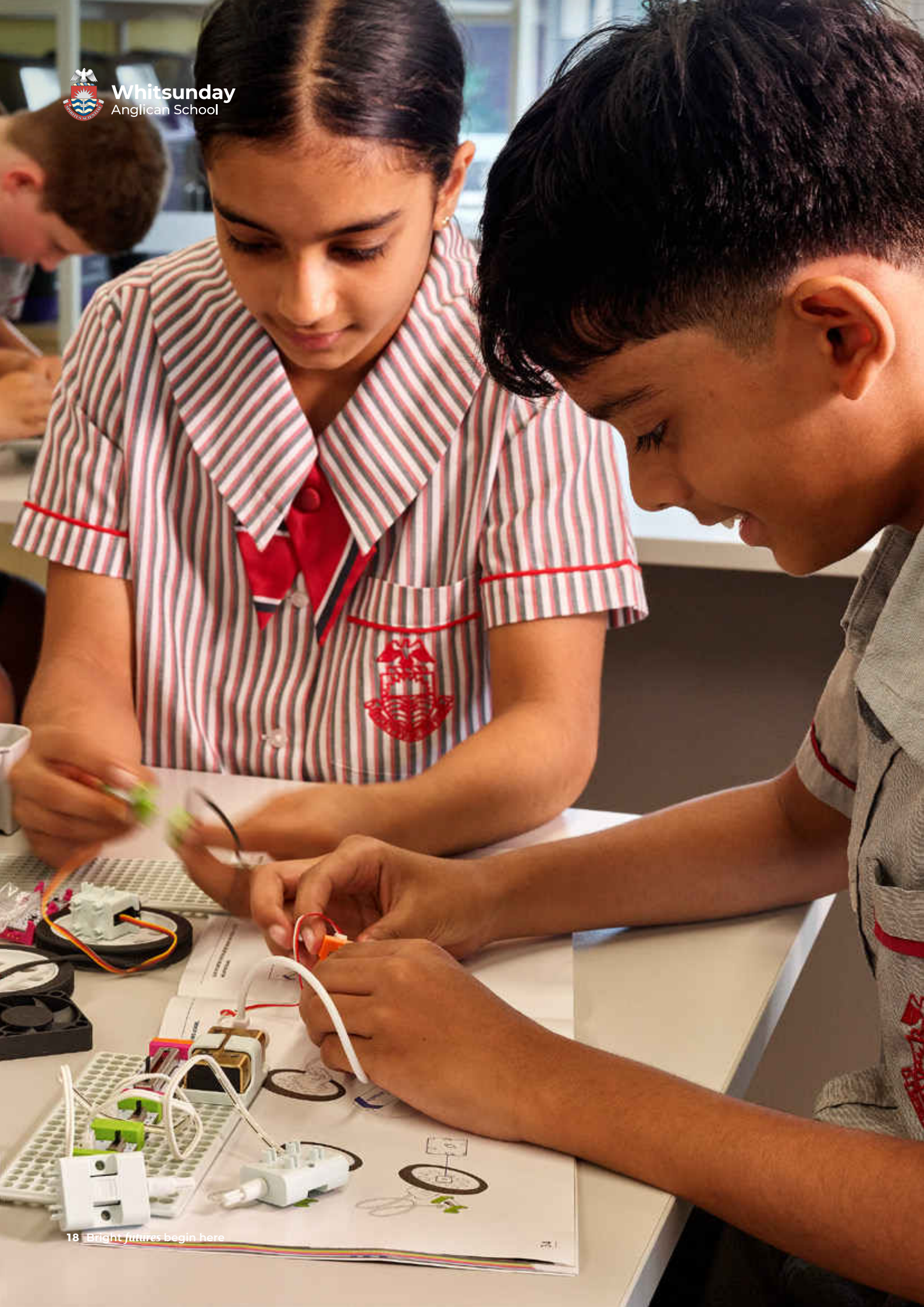
The right support structures

We monitor student learning and offer a free after-school Homework and Tutorial Scheme (HATS) led by academic staff. We have a proactive pastoral care programme for students (and parents) providing support, guidance and education. We also offer career guidance and have a School Nurse, Chaplain and Psychologist on-site to support our senior students.

Global exchanges and expeditions

Our strong international focus is evident not just in our languages and vibrant multicultural cohort but in our Global Expeditions. Trips include community-based service trips (for example, to help build housing in Vietnam), personal challenge trips (such as climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain), student exchange trips and cultural immersion trips. We have reciprocal arrangements with schools in France, Spain, the US, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and more.





Global thinking skills

Whitsunday Anglican School actively works to develop the concepts, thinking and skills essential for success in the 21st Century. These include collaboration, communication, contribution, creativity, critical thinking, empathy, emotional intelligence, enterprise skills, entrepreneurship, global understanding, good character, positive attitude, problem-solving, resilience, self-management, teamwork, and potential to learn.

Cocurricular

Cocurricular offerings at Whitsunday Anglican School are extensive, with a diverse range of opportunities available for our senior students in Sport, the Arts and Music, Service and the Academic arena. Our dedicated teachers can help identify opportunities based on student interests in the senior years.

Senior student athlete programme

The School's Athletic Development and Physical Wellbeing Programme is highly regarded. Senior representative students are now supported via the Student Athlete Programme, implemented in conjunction with the School's wider Health and Physical Education (HPE) and School Sports and Strength and Conditioning (S&C) programmes.

Digital era

We are a leading school in the use of Information, Communications and Technology (ICT). In this digital age, students need to be highly literate in ICT and are increasingly expected to be able to use technologies both in learning and the workforce. Our School is committed to developing digital pedagogies. All senior students access a Learning Management System that provides learning support both at School and at home. We have made a substantial shift from learning to use technology, to using technology to learn.

STEAM

We are recognised as a leading school for STEAM innovation in Australia. We have specialist teachers and former industry professionals who can provide practical interdisciplinary guidance in Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics (STEAM). With 75% of jobs in the 21st Century involving elements of STEAM, we ignite student's interest and support knowledge in the STEAM space.

The new STEAM Centre, opened in 2023, is a first for the Mackay and Whitsunday Region. The Centre is a world-class facility, placing students from Kindergarten-Year 12 at the forefront of innovative education.

Developed through a leading research partnership between the School and the University of Melbourne - Australia's number one ranked university and a world leader in education, the STEAM Centre provides students with critical skills in the future of STEAM.

The STEAM Centre provides students:

- Support to develop the real-life skills they need for success beyond school, facilitating creativity, collaboration, innovation and enterprise
- A Maker Space, tailored for innovation including robotics, drones, constructivist learning, 3-D printing and artificial intelligence (AI)
- Cutting-edge scientific laboratories
- Extended experimentation investigation laboratories
- Breakout zones for teamwork, reflection and idea-generating pods
- Learning commons and incubators
- Physics, Chemistry and Biology laboratories
- A tertiary-inspired library, featuring a range of learning spaces.



Creativity

Creative people help the world to evolve, solve its greatest challenges and feed its soul. We offer an extensive cultural programme, with specialist Art and Music teachers, a variety of band and choir offerings and the Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival. We are well placed to encourage our students' passion for the Arts, and actively facilitate creativity in all disciplines.

Leadership

Our senior students are able to actively pursue and apply to be involved in a wide range of leadership roles. They are supported to develop their leadership potential through personal and educational development opportunities.

Outdoor education

Learning experiences outside the classroom are just as important as learning inside the classroom. We are passionate advocates of our hallmark Outdoor Education programme that sees every student from Kindergarten-Year 11 embark on a week-long adventure. These experiences become more challenging each year and allow our students to take risks, to lead, to follow, to be empowered, to reflect, to build friendships, and to disconnect from a pervasive digital world; becoming confident as they develop lifelong skills.

Our Outdoor Education programme focuses on the growth and development of students as individuals and their ability to adapt to a diversity of environments and situations. This builds character, which leads to the development of accomplished young men and women, who are able to lead in the ever-changing globalised world.

Whitsunday Anglican School's Outdoor Education Week is an integral component of the holistic approach to our student's education and building a love for lifelong learning. At the end of the week, students are inspired by a new confidence that embodies a sense of achievement, new skills to reflect on and memories that last a lifetime.

Experiential outdoor education opportunities are crucial in developing personal growth, character, self-awareness, teamwork and facing challenges headon.

Senior assessment and tertiary education system

The new Queensland Certificate of Education system sees students working towards an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) rather than an OP (Overall Position).

In 2023, our Year 12 cohort achieved:

- Top score - two years in a row, 99.95
- 92.00 exceptional median ATAR
- 26% of students achieved an ATAR of 95.00 or higher
- 52% achieved an ATAR of 90.00 or higher
- 100% of students attained a QCE
- Three students achieved 100% perfect scores in English, English and Literature Extension, and Literature.

We are proud of our Class of 2023, who are embarking on bright futures following their university or VET pathway of choice.





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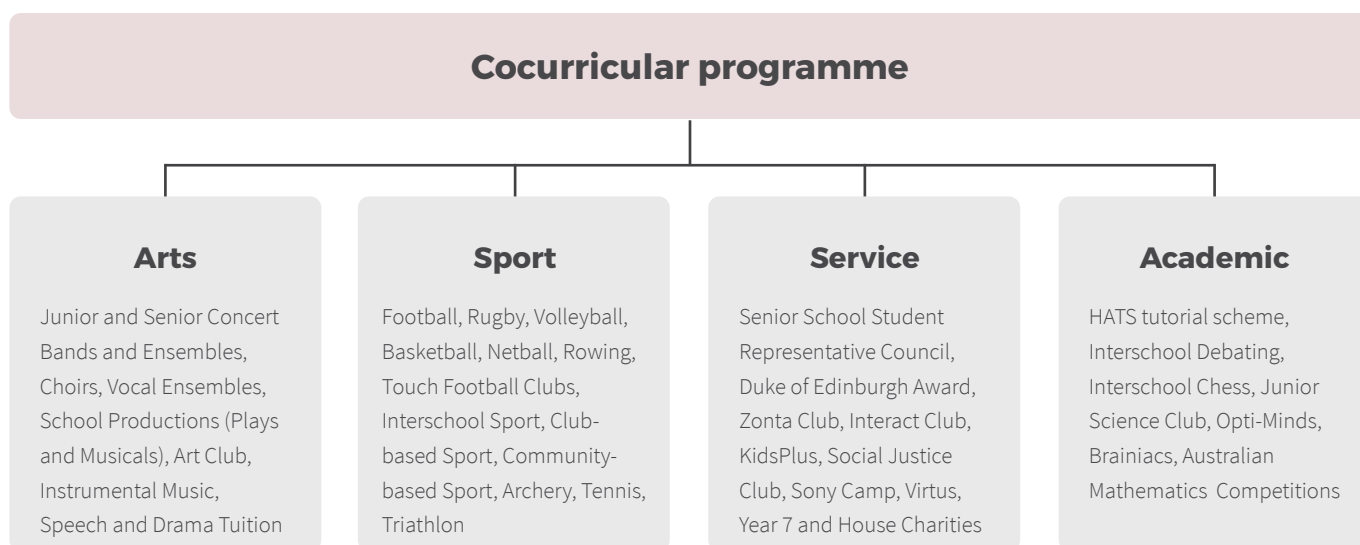




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Cocurricular overview



Whitsunday Anglican School places high importance on the development of our students' academic, sporting and cultural lives. We offer a vast range of cocurricular activities at the School with a Cultural, Pastoral, Sport, Art, Music or Academic focus. Students are encouraged to try at least one activity.

Arts activities

Arts offerings encompass all the performing bands and ensembles within the School (including choirs, concert bands, big band, string ensembles, guitar and bass, handbells, and a range of smaller ensembles), as well as activities from Visual Art and Drama such as Art Club and School Productions. Arts activities are open to all students. Students who attend Instrumental Music lessons are encouraged to further their development through participation in the many performing bands and ensembles on offer.

Sports activities

Whitsunday Anglican School is a recognised 'club' within local sporting associations in Netball, Football and Basketball. These fixtures occur outside school hours on weekends or in the evenings. Each of these clubs within the School has its own coordinator who oversees the coaching sessions, skill development and fixture schedules for our teams.

In addition to these larger sporting clubs, the School offers training and participation in competitive and non-competitive sports such as Volleyball, Triathlon, Target Archery, Tennis, Rowing, Rugby and more.

The School also participates in a variety of interschool sporting competitions and events at a local, state and national level. These include Intermediate Schools Cup Volleyball, Vicki Wilson Netball, CBSQ Basketball, and the Australian Schools Cup Volleyball.

Service activities

The School offers involvement in recognised service clubs (e.g. Zonta Club, Model United Nations, etc.) as well as numerous service events throughout the year (e.g. The Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea and Mackay Sony Foundation Children's Camp). These activities are coordinated by the Head of Service and Global Learning.

In the Junior School, students get involved in personal development activities including KidsPlus, which focuses on developing productive citizens.

Academic activities

The School offers the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of academic competitions throughout the year, making up the academic offerings. Specific faculties within the School help prepare students for academic competitions within the region and beyond, including Opti-Minds, Chemistry Titration, Debating, Public Speaking, Spelling Bees and Mathematics Competitions.

Our sporting life

Where would schools and our young people be without sport, without the ability to play, run and discover exciting new skills, talents, friendships and opportunities?

At Whitsunday Anglican School, we are committed to helping develop the physical abilities of each child. We are delighted to offer quality facilities and a diverse range of popular and challenging sports. This includes a large multi-purpose on-site oval and a large multi-purpose, air-conditioned gymnasium and indoor courts facility.

Sport gives children the opportunity to excel outside the classroom and can be a pathway to many exciting career opportunities.

We encourage children to take up a cocurricular sporting activity. Please note cocurricular opportunities change throughout the year, with a detailed cocurricular schedule released to families each term. *(Note: not all sports are offered to all age groups.)*

Some of our sports offerings include:

- Archery
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Football
- Futsal
- Netball
- Rowing
- Rugby
- Running
- Tennis
- Touch
- Track and Field
- Triathlon
- Volleyball



Athletic development programme

Whitsunday Anglican School provides a leading Athletic Development Programme which focuses on developing our students' (Years 1-10) physical literacy through effective, evidence based, progressive and cooperative programmes. This programme has evolved to deliver specialised high performance support to our senior representative students within the Student-Athlete Programme. These programmes will continue to facilitate cooperation between Health and Physical Education (HPE), School Sports and Strength and Conditioning (S&C) Programmes to maximise the learning, performance and wellbeing of students through a graduated, functional pathway of physical development and fundamental movement skill progressions.

Coaching

As well as team sports, individual coaching is available for students with a particular talent or passion in the sports we offer. Students involved in sports have the opportunity to compete at intra-school carnivals, interschool competitions and state and national championships.

Club

We also regularly field teams in Mackay club fixtures, providing the opportunity to compete and participate in the wider community.







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The Arts

At Whitsunday Anglican School, we value the Arts.

Students can take advantage of a wide range of leading arts, music and cultural opportunities. These include comprehensive curricular programmes in Drama, Music and Visual Art and extensive cocurricular offerings. From Prep, students have their art and music lessons in dedicated facilities with talented specialist teachers who are passionate about their creative field.

Art

Our Art curriculum allows for exploration of nearly every type of artistic medium from drawing to painting, sculpting and pottery, photography, mixed media, craft and textiles, and graphic and visual design. For students in Year 5 onwards, we also offer a cocurricular Art Club. Children in younger years have the KidsPlus programme, giving them an opportunity to enjoy a variety of arts and crafts. Art is a pursuit we encourage and support through our Artist in Residence programme, where the School hosts and students work with talented, well-known artists.

Music

Music is the ultimate universal language and an essential element to every culture. We recognise the extensive research supporting the benefits of music in all students' education. Playing a musical instrument has been described as a 'full-brain workout' and studies show that long-term study of an instrument can lead to enhanced development (particularly for those who start at a young age).

Musical studies can support improved academic ability and produce students who are self-confident, creative and able to express themselves. Involvement in music can also encourage memory and listening skills, fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, perseverance and teamwork.

Our music cocurricular offerings are vast and include the opportunity to join an extensive range of choirs, bands, string, jazz and handbells ensembles. The School's Junior music programme features a Years 2-3 String Programme and Years 4-5 Band Immersion Programme. Students are also encouraged to participate in our local community ensembles. Our talented young musicians perform regularly both on and off campus, which allows them to showcase their diverse skills and build on-stage confidence. Private music tuition is available on a wide range of percussion, brass, woodwind and stringed instruments, including guitar and bass and voice (singing). Interested students are supported to take part in AMEB examinations and external competitions, including the Mackay Eisteddfod.

Our Hatfield Music Centre has space for large choir and band practices. It also features acoustically treated studios for private practice and tuition. It is extensively resourced to cater for music makers of all ages including with percussion equipment, class sets of keyboards and guitars, acoustic pianos and a set of Mac desktop computers with specialist music and production software.

Drama

Drama comes alive at Whitsunday Anglican School in a multitude of ways. Our Pansy Wood Centre provides a dedicated drama performance, learning and practice space. We have performance opportunities in Music and Drama where students can experience the full creative process from page to stage. On stage, students learn to hone and develop their performance skills, while developing resilience, responsibility, teamwork, courage, confidence, positivity and determination.

Communication, and Speech and Drama lessons are offered during the School timetabled day. Students also have the opportunity to be coached privately, as well as to sit the Trinity College of London Examinations and perform in a range of local and state competitions, including the Mackay Eisteddfod. Further performance opportunities are available through Mackay community theatre and comedy groups.

Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival

A highlight of the annual Mackay Festival of the Arts, the Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival is organised and hosted by Whitsunday Anglican School each July. This major event attracts leading Australian, and International authors, illustrators, poets and bloggers to the region, and celebrates and ignites students' passion for the written word and the Arts. The Festival is open to the wider community and over 8,000 students, teachers and parents from schools across the region participate. From Preparatory-Year 12, there is something for everyone. The Festival is a phenomenal opportunity for our budding writers and artists. As well as having a strong involvement over the duration of the Festival, Whitsunday Anglican School students participate in private class or group sessions with authors and illustrators ahead of the main event.

Splendour in the Arts

Each year our students produce work for public exhibition and take part in the School's annual Arts spectacular, 'Splendour in the Arts'. The School comes alive with a showcase of musical and dramatic performances, and a public exhibition of student artworks from Kindergarten-Year 12.

Study and service

With our focus on ensuring success and global competency for each student, the School invests in a number of key areas to maximise educational and career prospects.



Homework and Tutorial Scheme (HATS)

From Year 2 onwards, Whitsunday Anglican School offers a Homework Assistance and Tutorial Scheme (HATS) a free and unique part of the School's offering.

All students are encouraged to be involved in this optional after school internal tuition programme led by specialist teachers.

HATS provides:

- The opportunity to learn in small groups
- Help with problem solving strategies
- Specific assistance with learning to work independently.

Vocational Education and Training (VET)

We offer recognised VET pathways, cognisant that university is not everyone's pathway. Many of our Old Scholars have established successful careers in industry, the trades, and as entrepreneurs. We have established robust networks with local business and industry and are able to facilitate internships where available.

Work experience

Our strong community connections allow us to provide our students with pathways to experience a potential future workforce. We actively encourage and support students who desire to gain exposure, experience and mentorship in a wide range of areas including health, industry, government and business. We recognise this experience plays a valuable role in career choices and can open up early opportunities for school leavers.

Service learning

As part of our Christian philosophy, we believe it is important that all students develop an ethos of service and being of value to others. A focus on service and community contribution is integral to developing responsible, self-aware, compassionate and empathetic young people who have an established sense of community and social justice and who are able to think beyond themselves.

'Service Learning' is a cocurriculum offering for Kindergarten-Year 12. Students can partake in organised community activities or charitable events. Through such initiatives, students develop their ability to care, fundraise or donate time, energy and effort for worthy causes including the environment, not-for-profit organisations, animals, the elderly and disadvantaged children.

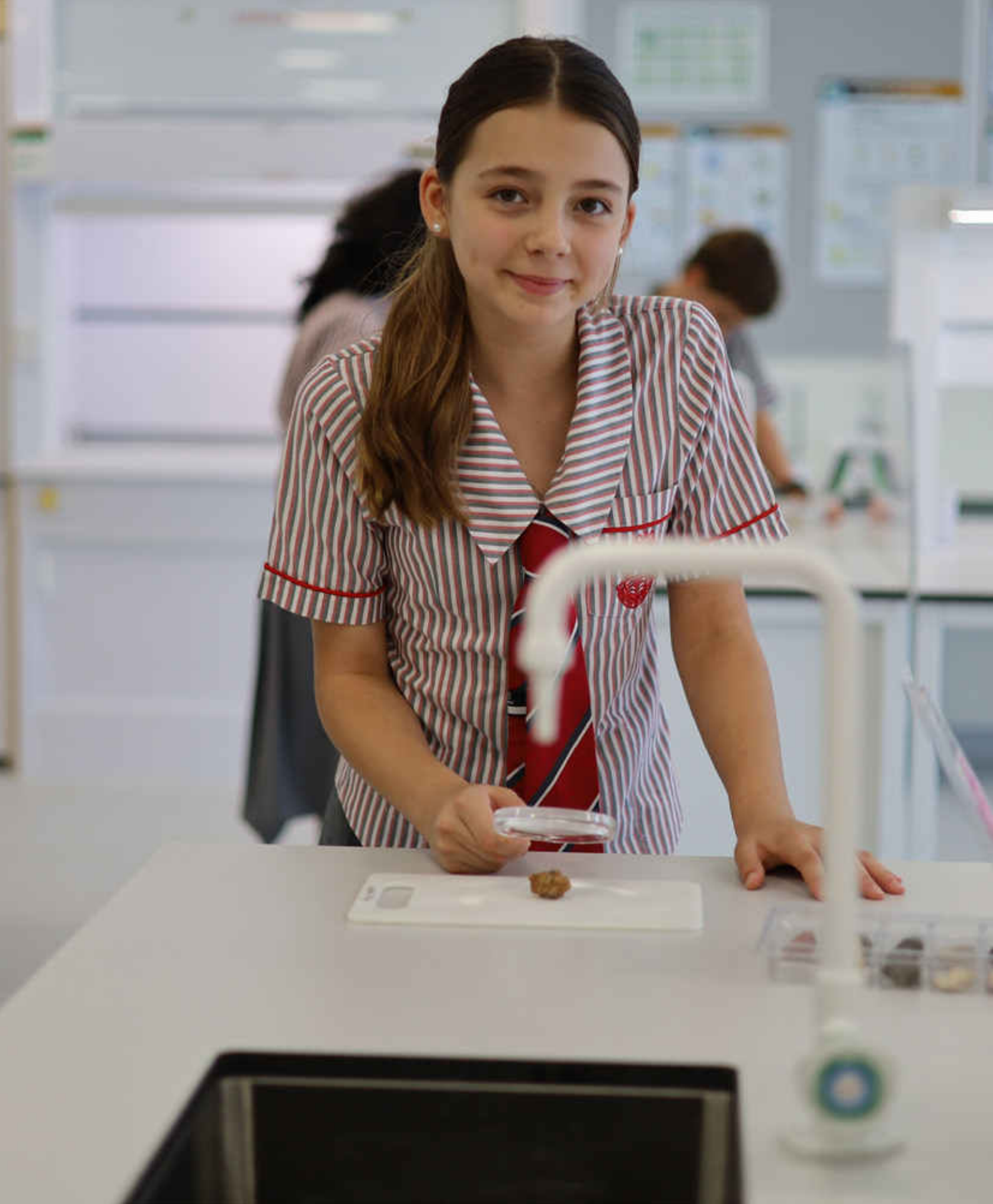
Years 11-12 are invited to participate each year in the Mackay Sony Foundation Children's Camp, which is hosted by the School. For three days students are the full-time carers and companions of young people with special needs. This unique experience is formative for our students and an exciting and fun time for all campers.

We believe developing a service ethic and humbly serving others is part of being an engaged local community and global citizen – as well as being an important leadership trait.

House system

Our School is divided into four houses – Ambrose, Barnabas, Charles and Trinity. Our House system provides students with a base for many important inter-school events, friendly competitions and other exciting activities that substantially add to the whole-school experience, from Preparatory-Year 12.

In addition, our Senior School benefits from a vertical House-based assembly each week. This allows students from Years 9-12 to interact with their fellow house members not just in their own age group, but across all senior year levels. The structure offers many benefits to students, including the opportunity to regularly participate in peer academic mentoring, and an enhanced sense of belonging and community for each student.





Whitsunday
Anglican School



Student services

Counselling, support and student protection

We are committed to the highest level child and student protection and support. We have a dedicated pastoral care team to help students and their parents with any concerns, issues or plans they may have relating to their studies, health and emotional wellbeing, future and welfare. This includes a School Psychologist, a School Nurse and over twenty dedicated Student Protection Officers who undertake regular training to stay at the cutting-edge of developments in this important area.

Bullying

We have a 'zero tolerance' approach to all forms of harassment and bullying. Our staff have a clear policy and process for early intervention and management of bullying and conflict, and aim to resolve any issues at the earliest point possible.

EALD Support

At Whitsunday Anglican School, we have many families and students for whom English is an additional language. We recognise the many benefits, and in turn challenges, associated with multilingual ability. Our class teachers and Learning Enrichment Centre (LEC) team work together with parents to identify where students may have a high need for English language support while at School.

Boarding and out of school care

Boarding

Whitsunday Anglican School provides an exceptional boarding offering for families located some distance from Mackay. We offer a 5-day and 7-day boarding option that can accommodate both international and local students. A large percentage of our boarders come from the wider Mackay and Central Queensland district (including Clermont, Nebo, Moranbah, Dysart, Calen, Proserpine, Airlie Beach, Bowen and Emerald). For those 5-day boarders living in the Western regions, we are able to offer a unique bus service home for the weekend, and then back to School, allowing them to experience the best of both worlds – a leading education and cocurricular opportunities during the week, and family life on the weekend. **Please request a copy of our Boarding Prospectus for more information.**

Outside of school hours care (OSHC)

We recognise that many families have both parents working full time or shift work. To assist families, space permitting, to juggle their priorities and commitments, we offer before and after school care, as well as vacation care and holiday programmes.

- **Before school care** – 7:30am to 8am
- **After school care** – 3pm to 6pm (including afternoon tea)
- **Emergency entry** – for children not booked into care and not picked up by 4:30pm
- **Full day vacation care** – 7:30am to 6pm (10 hours, including excursions)
- **Temporary boarding** – we may be able to accommodate temporary boarding or alternate boarding arrangements where needed.

Bus services

Whitsunday Anglican School has a direct bus service to transport students to and from School. This service, exclusively for our students, is operated mornings and afternoons on school days and there are full time and casual fee options. There are routes to the Pioneer Valley (as far as Mirani), south to Sarina (including Bakers Creek), and Ooralea (via Mackay Central). We also offer a bus home for the weekend to our 5-day Boarders, to Clermont and back.

Meet some of our Old Scholars

We value our network of past students and love to hear about what they are up to in their lives after school. All Whitsunday Anglican School scholars are part of our 'Old Scholars' community once they leave the school, and are invited to reunions and networking events to enhance professional connections and simply catch up.



James Bennett

Attended 2011 to 2013

After finishing school, James studied a Bachelor of Communication Design at QUT. James is an animator who co-founded a company called Zerply which is based in San Francisco. He has worked on movies including Avatar, Iron Man 2, Happy Feet, Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted, The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian and The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey.



Joseph Formosa

Attended 2005 to 2009

After completing a Bachelor of Dental Surgery at James Cook University in Cairns and receiving the University Medal for academic achievement, Joseph returned home to Mackay and worked for Mackay Hospital & Health Service, before relocating to the United States to undertake further studies at the prestigious Ivy League University of Pennsylvania. With only one resident accepted yearly into the post-graduate 4-year residency, Joseph completed his dual specialty in Periodontics-Orthodontics before returning to private practice in Mackay.



Imaan Ashraf

Attended 2005 to 2018

Imaan Ashraf has an impressive list of accolades to her name. Our 2018 School Captain is now studying Medicine at James Cook University in Townsville and is well recognised in the community, winning a number of awards. Imaan has been recognised for her efforts in creating awareness of Islamic culture and was named a finalist in the Outstanding Young Achiever in the Queensland Multicultural Awards.



Katherine Battersby

Attended 1990 to 1998

As the author and illustrator of nine picture books published around the world, including Little Wing and the popular Squish Rabbit series, Katherine's books have been shortlisted for numerous awards, including the Crichton Award, the CBCA Book of the Year Awards and the Speech Pathology Book of the Year Awards. *[Photo credit: John W. MacDonald]*



Mark Kalch

Attended 1990 to 1994

Along with a friend, Mark sea paddled the length of the world's longest river, the Amazon, becoming the 7th and 8th people ever to do so, taking 153 tough days and travelling over 6000km. In 2012, Mark became the first person in history to kayak the entire length of North America's longest river system, the Missouri-Mississippi, travelling over 6000km, and continued his adventures sea kayaking the Volga River, Russia and sea SUP the Murray-Darling River in Australia. Today, Mark is inspiring people around the world as an optimal human performance consultant, combat sport coach, Adventure Athlete, TEDx Speaker and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu black belt.



Caroline Graham

Attended 1993 to 2002

Caroline Graham started her journalism career at the Daily Mercury, and soon went on to co-write the Aussie bestseller Larrimah, the Walkley award-winning podcast series Lost in Larrimah and co-author of Writing Feature Stories: How to research and write articles—from listicles to longform. Caroline is now inspiring future journalists, teaching digital journalism at the University of Queensland.



Brendan Brieffies

Attended 2005 to 2009

Dr Brendan Brieffies completed his Bachelor of Veterinary Science at James Cook University in Townsville in 2015. Brendan joined the Clermont Veterinary Surgery not long after graduation, where he is now an Associate Veterinarian.



Jake Magro

Attended 2014 to 2017

In 2021, former School Captain Jake Magro was named a finalist in the AFR Top 100 Future Leaders. With past roles including Beta Alpha Psi USYD membership director, Amnesty International Club administrator, and Zonta Club treasurer, Jake's experience has allowed him to continually grow in all facets of leadership. He was awarded the USYD Sydney Scholars Award Scholarship following his Year 12 results and studied a Bachelor of Commerce & Advanced Studies at the University of Sydney, now working in global business and banking analytics.

More Information

We welcome parent involvement in the classroom, in sports programmes, on key excursions, as part of our P&F Association and across all elements of school life.

For more information about enrolment, or to arrange to see or experience our School, please contact our Head of Admissions:

P + 61 7 4969 2000 (General)

P + 61 7 4969 2077 (Head of Admissions – Enrolment and School Tours)

was.qld.edu.au/enquiry-form

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